

MAID'S NEW STORY CLEARS MRS. HALL FINGERPRINT EXPERT CONTRADICTED

Newspaper Man Had Possession Of Damning Card

By JACK MILEY
GRAPHIC Staff Correspondent

SOMERSET COUNTY COURT HOUSE, SOMERVILLE, N. J., Nov. 13.—The jury of twelve men to decide the fate of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall and her brothers, Willie and Henry Stevens, must choose between two stories as regards Mrs. Hall's activities on the murder night.

The jury may believe the disclosure yesterday by Mrs. Louise Geist Riehl, former parlor maid, that Mrs. Hall had been playing a harmless game of solitaire in her home between 9 and 10 o'clock on the night of September 14, 1922.

Or they may accept the state's testimony, that Mrs. Hall, torn by hatred and jealousy, went with her brothers to the Phillips farm, near New Brunswick, and there committed a capital crime.

The former statement was given yesterday by Mrs. Riehl. The latter charge was made by Senator Simpson, reading from the 1922 grand jury testimony.

Louise Geist Riehl, "the parlor beauty" and a parlor maid, who served Dr. Hall his last breakfast, was yesterday's most interesting witness.

Leaned Toward Defense

Called by the state, the young divorcee leaned toward the defense, when she testified for her former mistress:—

"Mrs. Hall was playing solitaire in her home between 9 and 10 o'clock on Thursday night in the library!"

The murder, as fixed by the prosecution's witnesses, occurred at 10.18 o'clock that same evening. The girl was the first person to place Mrs. Hall in her own home that night.

On the other hand, Mrs. Riehl testified against Willie Stevens:—"He came down stairs the next morning and told me:—

"Something terrible happened last night. Don't tell Frances (Mrs. Hall) that I told you."

Uncertain on Marital Status

After testifying to these two extremes, Mrs. Riehl, who admitted she did not quite know her marital status, was dismissed.

Simpson professed not to know whether Mrs. Riehl has lost her mate by court decree, while the defense insisted that her annulment action had made way for the Mirror's "expose."

Philip A. Payne, managing editor of the Daily Mirror, blamed by the defense for its predicament, ran true to form. Payne showed himself evasive, witty witness, with a rare gift for repartee, that he was in the Earl Carroll trial.

On Payne's paper was involved in the Earl Carroll wine-bath action, Payne proved a nemesis to Herbert C. Smythe, the Earl's \$1,000-a-day attorney.

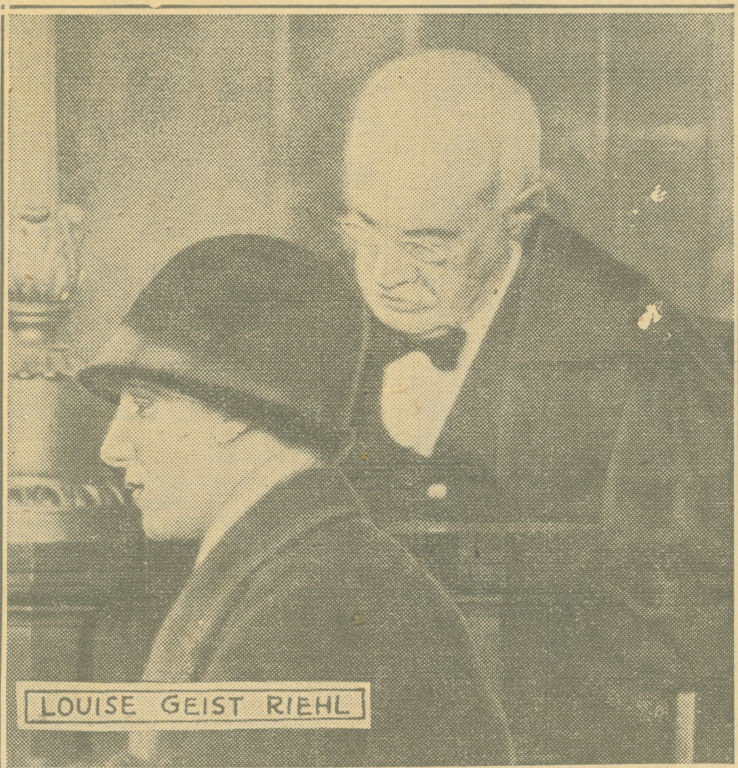
Payne's testimony, however, was considered by many as another feather for the defense. Under cross-examination, the editor declared that the card alleged to have Willie Stevens's fingerprints on it had been in his possession for a short time locked in a steel cabinet in his office.

Contradicted Schwartz

It was pointed out that this directly contradicted the testimony of Dr. E. H. Schwartz, state fingerprint expert, who had asserted that the card never had left his possession.

The defense intimated during the cross-examination that Payne and his paper would be sued for many millions after the trial, if

Her Testimony Helps Mrs. Hall



LOUISE GEIST RIEHL

LOUISE GEIST RIEHL, while furnishing a substantial alibi for the accused, admitted that Willie himself had said: "Something terrible happened last night."

Mrs. Hall Student of Law, Aids, Criticizes Counsel; Chief Concern Is Willie

By LEO J. CASEY
Graphic Staff Correspondent

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Nov. 13.—Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall is studying law, and daily before court convenes in this white marble court house, the widow of the clergyman slain four years ago with his choir singer, advises her expensive counsel on procedure.

A Portia Perforce



MRS. FRANCES S. HALL

the jury should exonerate the defendants or disagree on a verdict.

Herbert B. Mayer, Payne's favorite reporter, was a facetious witness, but weakened perceptibly, and was saved from McCarter's thrusts by adjournment.

The defense has a series of questions framed for the quickwitted young newspaper man. He will be asked about his army record, and other periods in his career.

It is understood that Mayer will be asked why he changed his initials from "H. B." to "H. C." Roy Daniel, Jr., Mirror city editor, may be called to testify as to this al-

This was learned today from Mrs. Edwin Carpender, faithful cousin and attendant of Mrs. Hall. Mrs. Carpender, plump, cheerful, little woman, who clings close to the austere murder defendant, gave an entirely different picture of Mrs. Hall than the public has generally received.

According to Mrs. Carpender, Mrs. Hall is suffering intensely as Special Prosecutor Alexander W. Simpson continues his bitter accusations.

Her Concern Is for Willie

She does not care for herself, Mrs. Carpender said, but is tremendously hurt when Simpson assails Willie Stevens, her weak-minded brother.

"Supposing I was a murderer," Mrs. Hall said to relatives; "does any one think I would have involved William? Why, he is only a boy, with the mind of a boy and the great, big smile of any of the youngsters who play about here."

"Since Edward went, Willie has been all I have had. He has been more to me than all the rest put together, and I would rather die than have harm come to him."

Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Carpender said, enjoys the child poems of Eugene Field more than anything she reads. The haunting wistfulness of "Little Boy Blue" with the dust-covered toys is her favorite.

Wishes She Had Baby

Frances Stevens never had a baby, but she wishes now she had—wishes it might have been a boy and reminded her of the man whom she says she still loves, even though she is accused of his murder. Glad that she hasn't, so that the gossipers may not point the

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Simpson Bent on Calling 'Pig Woman' on Monday; Her Condition Improved

Although Senator Simpson still intends to place Mrs. Jane Gibson, star witness for the state, on the stand in the Hall-Mills trial on Monday, her physicians announced early today that they were not certain she would be well enough to testify then.

Mrs. Gibson, known in the case as the "pig woman" was reported be "doing nicely" at the Jersey City Hospital, where she is confined. Her condition remains unchanged.



Thomas Kent

Dr. Charles B. Kelley, visiting gynecologist, in charge of her case, asserted that it would be several days before he would be able to determine whether the blood transfusion which was made on her yesterday would be successful.

Fireman Thomas Kent of Engine Company 21 gave up a pint and an ounce of blood, and 45 minutes later the operation was over.

Mrs. Gibson smiled and said, "Thank you."

Fireman Kent was given today off after the transfusion and went immediately to his home.

Holds Her Own



MRS. JANE GIBSON, "THE PIG WOMAN."

Hall 'Custodian,' in Life-Saving Role, Is Late at Court

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Nov. 13.—There are heroes, too, as well as accused, in the Hall-Mills murder case. John Underwood, custodian of the exhibits, arrived a few minutes late after the resumption of the trial yesterday because he had stopped to rescue three persons and had attempted the rescue of a fourth in fire at 69 Madison Ave., Jersey City.

The fourth person, Eileen Nolan, 4, who was overcome by smoke, was carried out by firemen and died later at the Jersey City Hospital. The father, Michael Nolan, his wife and her mother were helped out the burning house by Underwood.

NEW JERSEY JUDGE

TRENTON, Nov. 13.—Gov. Moore has announced the appointment of Joseph A. Dear, editor of the Jersey Journal, as lay judge of the Court of Errors and Appeals.

Abducted at Pistol Point Woman Has Two Men Held

Declaring she was abducted by two young men, Mrs. Anna Dale, 30, of 346 West 45th St., today is in readiness to testify against them on the abduction charge.

Rafaelo Adamo and Giuseppe Savino, both of 221 East 18th St., were held without bail in West Side Court on Mrs. Dale's complaint. Adamo boarded with Mrs. Dale some time ago, police say, at 513 West 29th St.

Last week, the court was told, Adamo went to the Dale home and announced that he had come to take Mrs. Dale away, declaring that he loved her, whereupon Dale threw him out and warned him to keep away.

Last Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Dale testified, she was walking in 8th Avenue, between 42d and

43d Streets, when Adamo and Savino, each with a pistol, forced her into a taxicab in which were three other men. They took her to a house in Van Brunt Street, Brooklyn, she said. There she learned she was to be taken to 221 East 18th St., and under pretense of asking for money telephoned this fact to her sister.

When Mrs. Dale and her captors arrived at the 18th Street address her husband was watching. He notified the police, who raided the place and arrested Adamo and Savino. The other men escaped.



SATURDAY, NOV. 13, 1926

U. S. WEATHER FORECAST

LOCAL—Fair and warmer today; tomorrow cloudy and warmer; probably showers tomorrow afternoon or night; moderate southerly winds.
EASTERN NEW YORK—Fair and warmer today; tomorrow fair and warmer in southern portion; cloudy and slightly warmer in northern portion; moderate to fresh southerly winds.